

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/614,190

Examiner

Ramy M. Osman

Applicant(s)

TAKAMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/28/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
ARIO ETIENNE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
CENTRAL REPLY CENTER 2100

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Status of Claims*

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed on August 28, 2007, where applicant amended claims 1,4,5,11-13 and canceled claim 2. Claims 1,3-15 are pending.

### *Drawings*

2. The drawings were received on 4/24/2007. These replacement drawings are acceptable.

## EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Donna Mason (reg 45962) on September 19, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Claim 1 (Amended): PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SHEET**

**Claim 3 (Amended):** The network storage system according to claim 2 1,

**Claim 5 (Amended):** The network storage system according to claim 2 1,

**Claim 7 (Amended):** The network storage system according to claim 2 1,

**Claim 8 (Amended):** The network storage system according to claim 2 1,

**Claim 10 (Amended):** The network storage system according to claim 2 1,

*Allowable Subject Matter*

4. Claims 1,3-15 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants invention of a network storage system for supplying a storage to a plurality of clients, is found to be patentable. Prior art references found to be pertinent to Applicants disclosure (particularly Patent Numbers: 6,718,372, 6,961,836, 6,944,712, 7,103,665, and 7,136,883), either only teach minor aspects of the invention or only teach the general environment of the invention. The prior art, neither singly or in combination, do not teach the claim limitations.

The particular novel feature of the invention (as mentioned in the claims) is how the second device manages a connection between a plurality of clients and a first device that is provided with a disk device, and relays access requests from the clients to the disk device. This is done by the first device allocating a portion of the disk device to the second device. The second device then divides that allocated portion into further plurality of portions and it will allocate each of the plurality of portions to clients. When the second device receives an access request the second device performs address translation of each of the clients associated with each request, adds a preset name of the portion allocated by the first device to a file name included in the access request and transfers it to the first device.

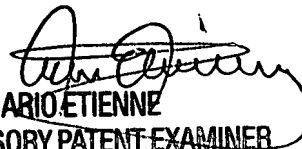
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramy M. Osman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RMO  
September 26, 2007

  
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